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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9307
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1802
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1424
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1770
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2353
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 1363
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1911
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 0224
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0382
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 0326
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0276
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9059
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2728
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2871
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0117
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0813

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002246

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WHA/AND SHELBY SMITH-WILSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/25/2017

TAGS: BO IR KNNP PGOV PREL IAEA USUN IT

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: ITALY WILL CONSIDER DEMARCHE ON SUPPORT
OF IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: SECSTATE 146842

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Jonathan R. Cohen, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

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¶1. (C) Poloff met with MFA Office Director for South America Michele Giacomelli October 23 to discuss reftel points and request that Italy demarche the Government of Bolivia on its unhelpful support of Iran's nuclear program. Poloff explained USG concerns over inaccurate and troubling statements by Bolivian officials that imply Iran's nuclear program is "peaceful" and "legal," and suggested that Italy might use its influence in Latin America to counter such claims.

¶2. (C) Giacomelli said he thought Bolivia's embrace of Iran was practical rather than ideological. Given unfavorable conditions that have made foreign companies reluctant to invest, Bolivia has had trouble attracting the capital it needs to achieve President Morales's development goals. An authoritarian regime like Iran can offer investment unhindered by normal market forces.

¶3. (C) Giacomelli cautioned that any approach to the Bolivians would require care, and should not take a scolding tone. He thought that a message emphasizing the international nature of concern over Iran's nuclear program would be appropriate.

¶4. (C) We delivered the same message to the MFA Iran Desk Officer Lorenzo Kluzer, who was sympathetic to the request and said he would discuss it with his colleagues in the MFA Directorate General for the Americas.

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